

Hywelian Guild Magazine — 2019 —



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Photographs:

Front cover: the new Sports Pavilion and all-weather pitch

Back cover: Aerial view of Howell's and environs

Welcome!

BY THE TIME you read this, Sue Rayner, the Guild Secretary, and I will be in the throes of preparing for our month-long trip to the fascinating places of South America.

That has meant that for once, I've been a little more organised in ensuring that this year's magazine is ready for printing in early January. The trouble is that when I sit down to put things together, I am invariably waylaid by the interesting things that Hywelians have to tell us, and end up behind schedule anyway. But what a pleasure it is — always! — to hear about achievements and successes, events and get-togethers, and, yes, the sadness of losing lifelong friends.

I hope you enjoy your magazine. Of course, it's not just my doing. I

cannot produce a magazine without the well-written contributions that you so willingly send us. As always, Sue Rayner and Joyce Shields have kept me in check, given me advice and supplied me with the sort of background information that only they can.

Finally, my thanks must include Mrs Sally Davis, Howell's Principal, for her immense support for the Guild, and Hannah Roberts and Vanessa Yilmaz, who keep me in the loop about what's going on in School and so much more.

*Lyn Owen
Editor*

SUMMER LUNCH 2019

We have finalised the arrangements for the Summer Lunch in 2019, which will be held on **Saturday 29th June 2019**. Details of ticket purchase will be sent by e-mail in the Spring, but this advance information will give groups a chance to organise themselves for the occasion.

Tickets will only be available through school and will have to be purchased in advance. They will cost £26.00 per person (children £12.00). School will open at 11.00 am and Hywelians will be able to look around as usual. The AGM will be held at 12.30pm and lunch will be served at 1pm. School will close at 4pm.

We will have a raffle with lots of prizes, so come prepared for that! We hope to see many of you there.

President's Letter

Mrs Sally Davis is President of the Guild and Principal of Howell's School. Below she updates us on achievements and successes in School in 2018.

EVERY WEEK, several newsletters are produced at Howell's. Mrs Ashill writes the Prep School Round Up—since September, the Junior School has been known as the Prep School—and I write two editions of *A View From the Top*, one of which is delivered to the Senior School girls and their parents, and the other to the students of the Co-Ed College and their parents. The purpose of the newsletters is both to keep everyone informed of the many and varied activities all the students and staff at Howell's undertake every week, and also to celebrate their successes.

One of my greatest pleasures is meeting students at break time. This is often for a Celebration Tea, where invited students join me in my sitting room to celebrate their particular achievements. Once a week, I also welcome the Young Leaders of the College and the Senior School prefects. When I meet

students, I take the opportunity to ask them for any ideas they have about how to improve the way that we do things at Howell's. As a result we now have fresh fruit available at break time for everyone, we have extra water fountains being installed as I write, and we even have a flagpole!

This term, one of the Senior School prefects suggested something different. Alice is an aspiring journalist and she asked if she could write an article about her feelings as she comes to the end of her time in the Senior School. I included her *View From The Middle* in our newsletters home at the end of last term, and I thought it would strike a chord with Hywelians. With Alice's permission, it appears on the next page.

As the head of our wonderful community of students, parents, staff, governors, alumni and friends, I cannot tell you how it

makes my heart swell to read these words. I know that so many Hywelians, some young and some not quite so young, feel the same about their time at Howell's. Ours is a very special school, and every day I am reminded of the great privilege that I have in being its Principal.

school; our doors are very nearly always open. Do come and visit, we have so much we'd love to show you.

*Sally Davis
Principal*

We love welcoming visitors at

And there's more ...

There is one event which the Principal has not mentioned—the construction and opening of the new sports Pavilion.

Located at the northern end of School field and into Trotter field, the new pavilion and all-weather sports pitch bring an extra dimension to games at Howell's.

(See the aerial photo on the back cover for an idea of the layout.)

Long gone are the days of sitting in afternoon classes in the sweat of lunchtime games sessions: the new building boasts

facilities older Hywelians could only dream of!

The new pavilion is a superb addition to Howell's built estate, and is a wonderful venue for

events other than sports-related ones.

Today's Howell's students should consider

themselves truly blessed with such a facility!



Below is Alice's view of her experience of a journey through Howell's as a student.

View from the Middle

I REMEMBER HOW I FELT when I first stepped through the doors to Howell's. My heart was pounding, feeling as if it was about to burst out of my chest. I was so overwhelmed, and beyond happy. At the end of every corridor and every staircase, there was a new surprise for me to uncover. Whether it was the spectacular Great Hall or even just a classroom along the way, I remember finding it very difficult to contain my excitement.

Now, when I walk through the school, the feeling is not as strong. It is overshadowed by an intense feeling of pride – I am part of this school. The walls and rooms around me hold all the memories of me and my friends, and those are the things I will never forget. It is extraordinary to be able to say that such a fundamental part of my life is being spent at Howell's, and I am sure that this feeling is mutual in all the other girls, even the ones who have now left. Howell's leaves an impact, everyone can agree.

Every day, I see the Year 7s rush through the corridors to their next lesson, holding thin folders that break very easily—I know this from experience. It's almost impossible to believe that I was once one of them. Every once in a while, the same conversation comes up with my friends as we see the younger students walk past:

“Were we really that small in Year 7?”

Even the teachers agree! They often remind us that we were once that small, and that is one of Howell's' best qualities. It is

filled to the brim with the most caring people who will always help you, no matter what. The teachers, even if they just teach you for one year, will never forget you. They'll never stop smiling at you in the corridors, they'll never stop asking you how you are. They watch us grow; they're there to welcome us at the door when we start in Year 7, and they're there to wave us goodbye in Year 13.

And yet, being in Year 11 feels as if we are about to leave something behind, though thankfully not Howell's itself. After this year, we will no longer be the anxious Year 11s who are dreading their GCSEs. We will be the girls who have worked through the hardest part of senior school and are ready to take on whatever challenge the future throws at us. Howell's helps its students every step of the way, and I have no doubt that the school and the staff will do everything that they can to help us as we look to our future.

The Senior School has been an amazing experience, and I will never forget it. I can only imagine what the College will be like, but, considering it's Howell's, I am absolutely positive that it will be as wonderful as the Senior School.

Many girls have come and gone, but I am sure that none of them will ever forget the life-changing experience that Howell's has given them. No school in the world cares about its students as much as Howell's does. In fact, there is no school like Howell's, because Howell's is not just a school, it is a community filled with all the best people.

Alice's thoughts will no doubt be echoed by many Hywelians. We wish her well in her future studies. - Ed

Dear Hywelians ...

Hywelian Guild Secretary Sue Rayner reports on another busy year for the School

This year has flown and once again I find myself sitting down and writing this for the magazine. It seems no time since a wonderful number of Hywelians sat down to Summer Lunch in the Great Hall – 100 of us, more than we have seen for quite a few years. We hope that it will be repeated in 2019.

In 2018, we had the opportunity to look around the new Sports Pavilion, though the entire scheme (with its AstroTurf playing fields and lighting) wasn't entirely complete. When it was opened a little later in the summer, I had a good look round and marvelled at the showers and changing facilities and the wonderful view from the balcony. I remembered the arrangements when I was at school, when we played games in our gymslips and school blouses and went straight in to dinner or back to afternoon classes as we were. Showers? Not a chance! Separate sports clothes? Not at all. And in those days, unless you were fortunate enough to go home for the lunch break, you had to play games every day either before or after lunch, which was held in two sittings. I think myself lucky that I did go home and managed to go through seven years at school without a single school dinner!

These days it seems unbelievable, but

this was in the 1950s, and it is astonishing how much everything to do with games has changed since then, and for the better. This has been reflected in a sports exhibition in the Museum in the Board Room, about which Janet Sully writes in this magazine. That brings me to another horror of my days: the swimming costume (the one which has been framed for posterity) made of wool which sagged when it was wet so that you were in danger of coming out of the pool with it round your knees! However, we were very conscious of our good fortune in having a swimming pool, which was an absolute luxury in those days.

Apart from sport, we have been treated to concerts and a wonderful performance of *A Christmas Carol*, every one to a very high standard. We are very fortunate in the support we receive from Sally Davis and her staff, and we look forward to 2019 to see what that will bring.

With best wishes to you all,

Sue Rayner

WHO'S WHO IN 2019

HYWELIAN GUILD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The magazine is now also produced in an online version accessible to all, so we have not given private addresses and telephone numbers. If you wish to contact the Guild, please do so via Hannah Roberts at School.

PRINCIPAL AND GUILD PRESIDENT

Mrs Sally Davis, Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff
Tel: 029 2056 2019

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mrs Natalie Chyba, *Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School*
Mrs Judith Ashill *Deputy Principal and Head of Prep School*

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Mrs Anne Hayward (Bates)

Mrs Calan McGreevy (Davies)

Mrs Sheila McFarland (Hamley)

Mrs Janet Sully

BRANCH SECRETARIES

LONDON

Diana Paul

BRIDGEND

Dr Pat Parry (Lennox)

SOUTHERN

Vacant

SCOTTISH

Mrs Caroline Mclean (Robison)

THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN

Dr Elan Preston-Whyte (Jones)

WEST WALES

Mrs Catherine Coulson (Johnson)

AUSTRALIA

Mrs Christine Atkinson (Treeby)

Officers and Branch Secretaries serve in a voluntary capacity, with appointment approved at the AGM. There is always a welcome to anyone wishing to serve on the Committee: please contact the Secretary for further details

Branch Reports

WEST WALES BRANCH

In 2018, West Wales Branch once again held two informal gatherings at my home in Loughor, and although on both occasions we were thin on the ground, all who attended enjoyed each other's company while catching up on the news and sharing a buffet lunch.

Sadly Daphne West (née Moore) passed away in January; Anne Rees, Delana Davies (née Thomas) and I represented the Hywelian Guild at her funeral.

Our next meeting is pencilled in for April 13th 2019, the venue yet to be decided - if you'd be happy to host please get in touch! Invitations will be emailed out in March; I'll also post details on the Guild's Facebook page.

Catherine Coulson

SCOTTISH BRANCH

This year's meeting was on Monday 13th August, at our usual venue, the Parklands Hotel in Perth. Only three of us were able to join together for lunch: Caroline McLean (née Robison), Mave Ersu (Mavis Jackson) and Jean Coleman (MacGregor). Barbara Trengove (Harvey), who has been a stalwart member of the group for many years, is now in residential care and is no longer able to make the journey from Aberdeen to meet us. We missed her company.



Our 2019 meeting will be held at the Parklands Hotel again, on Monday 12 August.

Caroline McLean

Caroline has been organising the lunch meetings for several years now and is keen to pass the baton on to someone else.

BRIDGEND BRANCH

We held our usual Summer Evening meal in Cottrell Park Golf Club in July. Our numbers are going down—only eleven on this occasion - but it was a good chance to catch up. Our usual November Advent service in Holy Cross Church Cowbridge was led by the Rector Stephen Adams followed by lunch in The Cellar in The Bear which has recently been refurbished. We were 24 in number, including two from School. Sadly, Sally Davis was unable to attend this year due to other commitments.

We were saddened by the death of Jose Rawlins in January 2018. She was secretary of the Branch for many years. I attended her funeral in Cowbridge. Megan Taylor from Porthcawl fell fracturing her hip in the summer 2017 and following some months in hospital has moved to a Care Home near her family.

Pat Parry

THAMES AND CHILTERN BRANCH

Seven members of the previous Thames Valley and Chilterns Old Hywelian branch (covering Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire) met again for lunch at Waterstones Bookshop in Piccadilly in late May. The previous year's lunch in its top floor restaurant had been so successful that we had decided to hold our reunion at the same venue again. London is accessible for all of us by train or bus and a day out in 'Town' gives everyone the opportunity to combine lunch with other activities. Those present were: Margaret Dart (née Carston); Ann Lawrence (née Pride); Diana Summersgill (née Richards); Val Jones (née Barclay); Jacqui Holder (née Moore); Christine Palmer (née Ruddock), and myself.

This year we had surprise lunch time visitors. Margaret Dart's husband and daughter, who was nine months pregnant (and a bit), were also up in London and arrived to say 'Hello'. A week or so later Margaret let us know she had a new granddaughter!

We agreed that next year's lunch would again be in May and would probably be at Waterstones. If there are any Hywelians who would like to join us then we would be delighted to see you.

Elan Preston-Whyte

CALIFORNIAN 'TWIG'

We're very sorry to receive what seems to be the final report from the far-flung 'twig' in California. It's been wonderful to have your news over the years! -Ed

I think the California twig is now just a nub: the biggest news is that the other half (Debbie) has returned to her homeland - well very close. She and her family have moved from California to Buxton in Derbyshire. I imagine she will be looking for

Hywelian activity there soon.

I do not have much to offer, other than my youngest son getting married to a lovely young American in the summer, which was a wonderful festive affair in the Santa Cruz mountains in July. I continue to teach ballet here in the Bay Area despite Miss Lewis's foreboding that it was not a very worthwhile means to earning a living. I do visit the UK reasonably often, but have yet to coincide with any Hywelian events.

I would be happy to meet up with any Hywelians in the area or visiting, but I feel the branch, sadly, is really no longer an entity.

Karen Plambeck

LONDON BRANCH



The London Branch of the Hywelian Guild held the usual two meetings in Spring and Autumn. On 12 May the Drapers' Company once again hosted an excellent tea party. Sally Davis, Vanessa Yilmaz and Catherine Scott came from School, and brought us up to date on current activities and developments.

The Autumn lunch took place at the Lansdowne Club, generously sponsored by Sally Davis (who was sadly unable to be there). It was much enjoyed but for the second time clashed with the Lord Mayor's Show, which caused travel problems for some. We will check dates next year.

At both functions we had around 30 members present, mainly regulars; we were, however, delighted to welcome some new recruits at the lunch. It would be good to see more young people: we usually meet for lunches on a Saturday to help those that work, but we are open to ideas and very happy to meet midweek if this is more convenient.

The next meeting at Drapers' Hall, our AGM, is on Saturday, 27 April 2019, and we would very much like to see new faces who would be interested in joining us — and benefitting from the privilege of visiting the splendour of Drapers' Hall.

Diana Paul

Howell's students turn up exam trumps!

In a time when academic standards are under intense scrutiny, it's good to know that the staff and students of Howell's continue to excel. Here, we summarise this year's A-level and GCSE achievements.

THE DOORS TO SCHOOL were flung open as the Year 13 leavers arrived to collect their A Level results. The 2018 exams have been described as being the toughest since A-levels began, and despite the major overhaul to the exams, 26% of all results were an A*— the highest percentage of A* grades that we have achieved for the last six years.

Of the students sitting A-levels at Howell's Co-Ed College this summer, 26% of all results were the highest A* grade, with 74% receiving A*-B grades. Six students achieved all A*s, and 30% of students achieved all A* and A grades. 100% of students studying Further Mathematics achieved an A*, 100% of those studying Music achieved an A*, and all those studying Mathematics achieved at A*-B.

Among the subjects being pursued by successful students are: physics (Manchester); composition (Juilliard School, New York); PPE (New College, Oxford); French and Spanish (Edinburgh) and Natural Sciences (University of Bath).

We wish all those embarking on their careers the very best of fortune.

Principal Sally Davis said:

"I could not be any prouder of this year's cohort. The number of A* grades that the students have achieved is truly outstanding, but I am delighted for each and every student—they have all worked so hard. These students were the first to take the new, tougher exams, studying more complex content, as well as relying solely on exam results for determining their final grade, rather than course-work assessed during their two years with us in the college. All our students should be immeasurably proud of what has been achieved; such admirable determination and dedication has yielded excellent results."

... and at GCSE level, further successes:

As students at Howell's collected their GCSE results, one message could be heard loud and clear: girls achieve more highly in science subjects in an all-girls environment.

I am delighted to be able to share with you that 88% of all science entries were graded 9-8 (the equivalent of an A*). In Biology, 92% of all results were level 9-8, in Chemistry, 88% were level 9-8, and in Physics 83%.

Across the board, our results were excellent e.g. all our Humanities scored over 57% A* equivalent with Religious Studies obtaining 79% of the top grades. In total, 63 students sat GCSEs at school this year, and an impressive 53% of all GCSE grades were at Level 9 & 8 or A*, with a combined Level 9, 8, 7/A*- A rate of 74%. 90% of all grades were at Level 9,8,7,6/A*-B.

This is a fabulous set of GCSE results, and it is wonderful to see how far this cohort have progressed over the last five years in the Senior School. As a school with a broad intake, what matters most to us is that each girl achieves her own potential. To see so many girls not just meeting their predicted grades but exceeding them so confidently is fantastic. Our girls have multiple strengths and interests, and on top of their academic ambitions, many of them perform at national level in sport, music and drama. In addition 50% of students taking Drama and Music were graded Level 9-8/A*. It's the hard work and dedication of the girls, our staff and the parents that enable them to excel academically and beyond. I feel incredibly proud of every one of them.

“These results provide further confirmation, if it were needed, that in an all-girls learning environment, free from gender bias or social pressure from boys, girls thrive in what have been traditionally regarded as male-dominated subjects. The single-sex education available at a GDST school provides the motivation, self-belief and resilience for our girls to feel confident about their abilities; they are more assertive and willing to take risks, ask questions and make mistakes.”

Vanessa Yilmaz, Director of External Development

Who, what and where

It never fails to amaze us what Hywelians get up to post-HSL! Here is a round-up of the latest from all over the world.

Isabella Howell writes:

“I just thought I would send my accomplishments of this year. In June 2018, I graduated from the University of Arts London as Valedictorian, Bachelor of Arts with a First Class Honours in Photo-journalism and Documentary Photography. I was asked to give a speech to end the graduation ceremony in the Southbank Centre. “After a successful show in London East End I have been travelling through Europe and am working with Royal Mail, creating their advertising pictures.”

Enid Barrell (née Nash) is keeping busy. She reports:

“I have knitted a good number of blankets, matinee coats and pull-on bonnets for the John Radcliffe Hospital. I am also responsible for making birthday cakes and cards for our Holy Communion group on a Tuesday morning at Holy Trinity, Witney.”

Katrina Cinus is also a very busy lady! She tells us:

“I’m keen to let you know that I am now responsible for delivering Wales' largest Technology and

Innovation annual conference - Digital Festival - with over 2,500 delegates attending each year. I've been working in event management



for over 15 years and been growing this particular event over the last three years. For anyone who is interested, I can send more details on my role as the Event Director and how an event of this scale is pulled together, and its contribution to inward investment for Wales.

“I have an eight-year-old daughter who attends Howell’s Prep School and I actively help raise money for the school - organising the recent Great Hall Crystal Ball.”

[Katrina can be contacted via email:

Katrina.cinus@innovationpoint.uk

The event website is:

www.digital-festival.co.uk]

Maria McCarthy (HSL 1974-81) is still enjoying living in Sidmouth, Devon and feels that moving there is one of the best decisions she ever made - it's such a beautiful place. She is working as a journalist, writing for Good Housekeeping, Saga and Woman's Weekly, and appearing on the BBC commenting on motoring matters. She was runner up for the *Newspress* Automotive feature writer of the year 2018. During the Sidmouth Literary Festival, at which she was a speaker, she met Lord Norman Tebbit and the delightful Diana Moran (aka 'The Green Goddess'). In her spare time, Maria has taken up Irish Set dancing - a form of folk dancing that has similarities to 'dancing in the hall on wet games, - but far more enjoyable!'

Maria adds: "I've just been shortlisted for the Guild of Motoring Writers AA Campaigning Journalist of the Year and Consumer Journalist of the year."

Sadly, Maria didn't win, but did get two Highly Commended awards.

She says, "It would be nice to actually get an award to put on the mantelpiece at some point, but I'm philosophical!"



[Maria has a website at

www.mariamccarthy.co.uk]

And is on social media at

www.twitter.com/mariamccarthy11

Joyce Shields remembers one of her contemporaries:

"She was known as **Jean Paterson** then, later Nicola Kearns-Beattie, and she lives in Colorado. She left School in 1953."

Jean/Nicola writes:

"Happy; extraordinary really. At 81, I married Will, who's 85! We are so lucky and healthy. I will be bringing him and my family to see HSL next June. Maybe my grandchildren will want to continue the tradition.

My mother was at School in Miss Trotter's time: I was there with the remarkable Miss Lewis."

From Couch to Marathon

Jenny Huckstep tells of a journey that took her from walking to running a marathon and all stages in between.



I AM NOT a natural athlete. At school, my preferred distance was the 100m because it would be over quickly, but I favoured swimming, as any unattractive sweating would be camouflaged by the water. At university, I embraced cycling, but more as a free mode of transport than for any sporting prowess. In adulthood, I discovered a love of walking or trekking: the simple act of putting one foot in front of each other allowing you to reach further and more distant places. But long-distance running?

Although the romantic thought of effortlessly gliding through country lanes or across a golden beach was appealing, I didn't believe I was cut out for it.

So when a friend suggested Couch to 5K, I was curious. Consisting of three runs per week, the programme is designed to build you up slowly, so that — miraculously — after eight weeks, you are able to run for 30 minutes. Still uncertain, the fact that Week 1 only required me to run for 60 seconds then walk for 90 seconds was tempting. I could run for 60 seconds surely? I glossed over the fact that I would have to repeat those intervals for 20 minutes, dragged my old trainers from the back of the cupboard and set out of the door. As each week progressed, any uncertainty I had gave way to a determination to continue, simply not to give up. By the time I “graduated” the fact that I was already capable of more than I had first believed, made the idea of running a 10K rather less ludicrous. The feeling of exhilaration as I crossed the line of my first 10K race still stays with me now. I celebrated well, rested a little too well and fell off the training wagon, a pattern I was to repeat with subsequent races over the next few years.

After one outstandingly lengthy rest period, I was horrified to discover my “comfy jeans” had clearly shrunk in the wash and it was time for action once again. A few months later, on a particularly good run, rather than turning for home, I made my way up a previously unexplored bridle path and was amazed how my legs just wanted to keep going. The following week, the same thing happened: I became



curious to see just how far I could go.

I trained for and ran a half-marathon a few months later, but rather than indulging in my usual post-race lethargy, I found I simply didn't want to stop. A full marathon was the next obvious goal. As I started to research exactly what it would take, it became clear this was going to require so much more than just the physical training. I would need to work on my brain. I pinned my training programme to the wall. I created a mantra – a sequence of positive phrases applying to different aspects of training – and stuck it to my bedside table. I worked on concentration exercises to maintain focus and body-scanning relaxation techniques. I created visualisations – teams of Viking longboat oarsmen mechanically powering my legs, birds soaring overhead tethered to tired limbs, raising me to weightlessness and guiding me forward - to be recalled in my darkest moments. I also sought sponsorship.

As I launched my campaign and donations started to flood in, I began to feel the pressure of so much expectation, so many people believing in me. What if I let them down? What if I'm simply not capable of more? But as the runs got longer, each week knocking down the wall of my own psychological limitations, my confidence grew. By the time I lined up on marathon day, although daunted by the enormity of the task I was about to undertake, I felt certain I was going to finish it. The high spirits and enthusiasm at the start of the race gave way to quiet concentration for the first hours. As the miles grew and started to take their toll on those around me, it was the psychological training that I relied onto drown out my protesting body. When at last I looked up to see the final mile-marker, I yelled out in joy and amazement, "26-miles!" I knew I'd done it. My aim to cross the finish line a salty sweaty mess, but still strong and with a huge smile on my face was in sight, and it was glorious!

I have consistently surprised myself with redefining my own view of my potential and discovered I am capable of so much more than I ever thought possible. What else have I told myself I'm not capable of? And so the lure of the ultra marathon is calling me. What about you? You could run for 60 seconds, surely?



Hywelians in print

We're always delighted to hear about Hywelians who have made it in the literary world. Here we outline some recent successes.



WE HAVE FEATURED **Jane Cable's** work in previous magazines. Here, Jane gives us an update on her latest venture. She says:

"I wanted to let you know that I have just signed a two novel deal with Sapere Books. The first will be a re-issue of *Another You*, which disappeared from the shelves when the original publisher went into liquidation. The second is also a romance looking back to World War II, *Winter Skies*.

"Sapere Books is a relatively new digital publisher with a young, enthusiastic team. So far they have been an absolute joy to work with and I'm really excited about what's to come. At the moment it looks as though *Another You* will be re-issued to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day in June 2019, with *Winter Skies* following in the autumn. The main character in *Winter Skies* is an archaeologist, so I've been doing a little more than desk research by taking part in a dig on Bodmin Moor!

"This summer *The Cheesemaker's House* [Jane's first book] was five years old. I've no idea where that time went, but I had a blog tour to celebrate and was delighted that a new generation of readers love the book too.



"And finally, I'd like to recommend something from my own bookshelf, a brave novel by one of my writer neighbours, Liz Fenwick. Tackling dementia in romantic fiction was never going to be easy and *One Cornish Summer* is as disturbing as it's gripping - but ultimately life affirming."

To read more about Jane's experiences go to:
<https://www.frostmagazine.com/2018/09/business-of-books-digging-around/>

Sinnead Ali has been teaching yoga and is now living in Singapore. She tells us:

“I AM VERY EXCITED ... as I am soon to launch a crowdfunding campaign for my book *Moody Nails*.

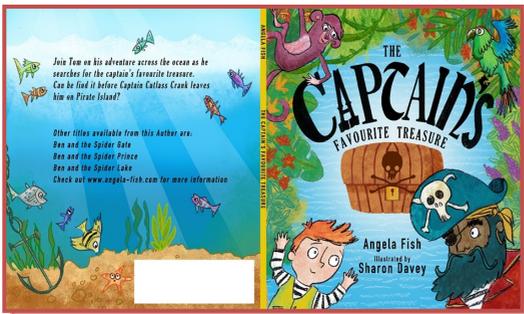
“The book aims to guide young women and girls through their self-care and meditation practice with mudras and — nail art!

“I am very passionate about women's mental and emotional health and wanted to create a gift-able product that would champion this.”



“YET ANOTHER very busy year, but not exactly in the way I was expecting!” says **Angela Fish** (née Kear). She goes on:

“In January I added 35,000 words to the adult novel that I’ve been working on, and I hoped to have a first draft completed by April. However, fate intervened as my husband had to have (very unexpected) major surgery in March. Fortunately, all went well and he is making excellent progress. It has meant that my writing has taken a back seat, but I hope to ‘pick up my pen’ again very soon.



“My picture book, *The Captain's Favourite Treasure*, came out in April and has received some lovely reviews on *Net Galley*, predominantly from teachers who said that they would use the book to encourage classroom creative activities with their younger pupils (3-6).

“I have taken ‘Tom’ to some book fairs since April and have a few more lined up before the end of the year, including the HSL Christmas Fayre. Hopefully he’ll be as well received as the ‘Ben’ books!”

Find out more about what Angela has been up to by logging in to:

www.angela-fish.com

Reunion News

Cheryl Elias (née Parker) gives news of a special get-together

“LAST CHRISTMAS I received a card from my closest school friend reminding me that it would be 50 years this year since we left HSL. She added the post script ‘we should do something to mark the date.’

“My task was to try and contact members of the Class of ‘68 and invite them to join us at the Summer Lunch at School. Using Social Media and contact details provided by better-informed Hywelians than myself, I was able to invite 20 or so ex-classmates, of whom I am delighted to say 17 accepted.

“The result was that on a very sunny Saturday in June, 18 rather over-excited Golden Girls enjoyed a wonderful day in the School many had not visited since 1968.

“How lovely it was to meet old friends and share memories. There were whoops of joy and howls of laughter as we were reunited. Badges bearing names we used at school were provided to avoid embarrassing moments, but almost without exception we hadn’t changed one bit!

“What fun it was to walk around our old school brazenly carrying a glass of champagne into rooms previously forbidden to us. We even visited Miss Lewis’s study and private toilet!

“How marvellous Howell’s looks now! Such wonderful facilities and so welcoming. Who would have believed it? Carpet in the Stone Hall and easy chairs everywhere. Friendly pupils chatted to us about their current school, so different from ours! A delicious lunch was served in the Great Hall, resplendent after refurbishment.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my day and am grateful to my friend for suggesting it; also to The Hywelian Guild for such a splendid function. I hope some of us will meet again soon and share more memories of our time at Howell’s.”

Cheryl Elias (nee Parker)

*If you are planning a reunion this year, do consider meeting at the Summer Lunch.
It’s good to meet up with the wider Hywelian Guild!*

Recent Arrivals

It's always lovely to hear of new additions to families, especially when they arrive after a long wait!

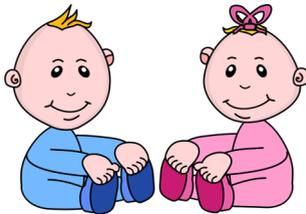
Shirley Harris (née Belman) is bubbling with good news! She tells us:

“Our news is better than all the A*s or entries into Oxford/Cambridge or any other university anyone could ever achieve!

“At the grand old ages of 82 (me) and 88 (Victor, my husband), we have become grandparents for the very first time. Our youngest son Steve, then 56, married Aislinn, then 39, on 30 September 2016 and on 12 October 2017, our beautiful little grand daughter Niamh (pronounced NEEVE) was born. We never imagined we would ever have a grandchild and could not imagine the joy she has given us.”

And Shirley adds:

“All the best to the Hywelians, staff and students at Howell's.”



1959-66 Year group reunion

Kay Powell sends a special call for anyone in the above year group to come to Llandaff on Saturday 29th June. Kay says, “If you haven't been back recently (or at all...) DO come to the Summer Lunch at School - you will be amazed by the look of the place, the wonderful catering and the warmth of the welcome - please join us!”

Details of the date and time can be found on Page 3—Ed

The Guild Secretary and Magazine Editor, along with Kay Powell and another friend, were lucky to make the long trek to New Zealand back in the spring of 2018. Here, Sue Rayner recalls one of the highlights of the visit to Christchurch, South Island.

Reminders of home – half a world away

EARLY IN 2018 I set off to revisit New Zealand, a country I fell in love with in 2006. This time I was travelling with three friends including our Editor, Lyn Owen and Kay Powell. We had an amazing trip ahead of us, managing to see a remarkable amount of the country in three weeks.

We started our journey in Christchurch, New Zealand's third largest city. Christchurch was founded largely by an emigrant group sponsored by the Archbishop of Canterbury, hence the name of the city and also the naming of their region of the country as Canterbury. I had stayed there on my earlier visit and loved its heritage buildings, including the cathedral, and I was anxious to see how the city had been affected by the devastating earthquake it suffered in February 2011.

Today it looks very different from the city I visited earlier. There are many gaps and spaces along the streets, where buildings had to be demolished and have not been replaced. The city has encouraged some wonderful street art for the walls of buildings adjacent to these gaps, and these murals help to make the city look bright and cheerful.

One of the heritage buildings quite badly damaged was the former University of Canterbury. The university had moved out to larger premises some time back,

but the buildings were being used for an Arts Centre and a range of other cultural activities. The buildings, which date from the 1860s, were very reminiscent of Howell's School: built of grey stone, I wouldn't have been surprised to discover that they were designed by Decimus Burton, but they weren't.

The decision has been made to restore these buildings, and the first part has been re-opened. It was the university's Great Hall, a panelled room with stained glass windows, it was reminiscent of our recently refurbished Great Hall, minus the Shakespeare panels. It was interesting to be viewing another refurbished Hall of the same vintage! The university's most famous alumnus is Sir Ernest Rutherford, splitter of the atom, and there is a splendid area for children to take part in interactive games with Physics principles incorporated.

The Cathedral is a sorry sight: half collapsed, it has now been decided to rebuild it. Anything built now has to conform to much more stringent earthquake proofing, so the remainder of the building will have to be demolished and rebuilt. In the meantime, the Japanese have built a transitional 'cardboard cathedral'. Much of it is indeed cardboard, though it is reinforced with metal struts. It is a really beautiful building. At ground level, the building has many shipping containers which are uprisen as a kitchen, a

vestry, a chapel and toilets. Indeed, Christchurch as a whole demonstrates many ingenious uses for old shipping containers!

Our grand tour ended in Auckland where Lyn and I met up with Gill Sewell (née Williams), a Hywelian who is now Head of Human Resources for Auckland Health Board. More coincidences and reminders of home awaited me in Auckland too: in Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is a beautiful 20th century building, there is a brand new organ built by Nicholson's of Malvern, who also built Llandaff Cathedral's wonderful organ not many years ago. In Auckland's old cathedral (which is still standing) when some

restoration was undertaken, they had involved a Yorkshireman called Robert Thompson, a craftsman in wood called The Mouseman, because he always carved a small mouse on pieces which he made. He had left a mouse on the pulpit in Auckland. Robert Thompson was also involved in the post-war restoration of Llandaff Cathedral, and there are several carved mice on altar rails, on the high altar and in St. Teilo's Chapel.

If you remember the Snow Dogs spread around Cardiff (two of them now residing at school), Auckland had something similar: there were a series of decorative owls around the city.



Above: rebuilding works in Christchurch:

Right: Auckland Owl:

Below: Mural, Christchurch



Above: University, Christchurch;

Below: New Cathedral, Auckland.



From the Archives

Janet Sully, HSL's Chief Archivist, records the year's happenings in the archives.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE CONTINUED to organise the material in our archives area on the first floor of the Hub, a painstaking task and one still nowhere near finished. It is wonderful to have table space on which to spread out documents prior to putting them in archival-quality transparent covers, placing and recording them appropriately. As in previous years, our collection has been enhanced by several kind donations during the year, and enquiries have been answered from all over the world.

Our current major task involves sorting through, covering and categorising a massive amount of material from the music department, passed on to us following the retirement of Mrs Liz Phillips as Director of Music in the summer. Both she and her predecessor, Mrs Gaynor Howard, had stored systematically just about every single document over a period of almost fifty years – concert programmes, newspaper articles, timetables, musical scores, details of classes, instrumental lessons, photographs and many more.

We have also been busy preparing an exhibition of photographs and sports memorabilia, including cups, trophies

and old items of sports clothing and equipment, together with two pop-up stands outlining the history of sport at Howell's. The incentive for this exhibition was the official opening of the new Sports Pavilion in September. The exhibition is housed in the old Board Room, which now serves both as school museum and sitting area, and we hope the display will be there for some time, to be seen by as many visitors as possible.

During the year we had to say goodbye to one of our archives group, Julia Farnham. We are delighted that she gained a new post in the Pharmacy Department of Cardiff University, but were very sorry to lose such a reliable, efficient and thoughtful colleague. I am most grateful to her for her support over several years, during which time she helped to set up the museum in School and helped to assemble our exhibition in the Cardiff Story Museum. My other two colleagues, Sue Rayner and Michelle Ingram, continue to be a source of great support, offering sound advice and considered opinions as well as a huge amount of practical help.

Janet Sully.

Below are some photographs of the exhibition currently found in the Board Room



Any mention of swimming at HSL seems to elicit a common memory those awful woollen bathing costumes (see photo above) —itchy, vile orange in colour and notoriously saggy and baggy when wet!



Old habits die hard!

Here is a letter written for the Hywelian Magazine 100 years ago by a former pupil reflecting on what Howell's had taught her. This Hywelian, who only signed herself 'Touchstone' had started at school on 21st September 1894. At the time of writing, the war was over, and Miss Kendall, who had postponed her retirement for the duration of the war was about to leave.

DEAR HYWELIANS

In a rash moment I promised our most excellent Hon. Secretary that I would write something for the Hywelian Report, but I did not in the least know what that something might be.

At this juncture of the school's history, one cannot help looking back over the past years with a certain amount of regret: the old order is passing away and a new regime about to take its place. While we all deplore the sad circumstances which necessitated it, we are very glad to have had Miss Kendall with us for an extra year.

For eight years I was a Founder at the old School and I feel only the profoundest gratitude for all I received during that time; I should have been only too happy to have had a chance to record, at the recent disgraceful law suit brought against the school, my own experience while there as a Boarder.

Well, to resume. One cannot be an inmate of any Institution for eight years without forming certain ineradicable habits. I can't tell you all

that I formed, it would not be good for you if I did, but I will proceed to tell you of some.

To begin with, I have got the *habit of marking* very badly, it is a positive mania with me; Everything in my house is marked, even down to the pudding cloths and my children's dolls' clothes! You see, it was a dreadful offence to possess anything at school not marked with the owner's name. This was firmly – if painfully – impressed upon me on my first night at School, Friday 21st September 1894, to be exact. A certain mistress, much loved or much feared for her eccentricities, was on dormitory duty, and asked us if all our toilet requisites were marked. We said yes. Later, an inspection took place, and my sponge was discovered unmarked, and vials of wrath descended on my head! I was amazed to find what an evil thing I was! To make matters worse, I was impudent enough to say, in self-defence, that I did not know that a sponge *could* be marked. For this I spent many unhappy hours “under the clock” *accompanied by the sponge* (to the entertainment of the other girls), until

an angel from heaven in the form of one Gertrude David, my ‘mother’, rescued me by sewing on to the offending sponge a tape bearing my name. Can you wonder that I now mark everything?

Then again I have the **derivation habit**. This started when one began to learn the Collects and Church Catechism. What Boarder, if she be a Church girl, will not always remember the frantic rush to Nuttall’s and Chambers’ Dictionaries on Sunday mornings, and the ensuing hunt for such words as *prevent*, *comfort*, *assault* and *pomp*. I dream of derivations. I have a pet nightmare which ends in my waking and repeating aloud ‘*de-down, fendo-* I strike.’ Nevertheless, this derivation habit is an engrossing one, full of interest! It reconciles one to the learning of Latin, and I heartily recommend it to my readers.

Another habit we had firmly implanted in us was that of **reading footnotes**. We discovered to our dismay that footnotes, like postscripts, are often of more importance than the main text. Yet what a temptation it was to skip the footnotes, usually written in small print. I well remember how we

suffered on one occasion; it was in the VI Form, and we were given the next twelve pages of *Les Precieuses Ridicules* to translate. As half of each page was taken up by a footnote, we felt we had scored off our mistress, but our triumph was short-lived and ever since I read any, and every, footnote with feverish zeal, although there is no-one to censure me if I omit doing so, so strong is the force of habit.

The moral of it all is this, and I write these words for the benefit of any present day Hywelians who may read them: throughout our school days we are unconsciously forming life-long habits, either good or bad, and it is only possible for those who have left school days behind them to realise what a big debt of gratitude and reverence we owe to all our teachers, and especially to our beloved Head Mistress.

May I take this opportunity in the name of all Hywelians, of wishing Miss Kendall many years of good health to enjoy the leisure she has so richly earned.

TOUCHSTONE

The above will, no doubt, strike a chord with many Hywelians! Does anyone know what the law suit was about? - Ed

Remembering the good old days?

Margaret Wallace (née Guy) wonders if anyone would be interested in her experience as a new girl in 1939 (*of course we are!*—Ed). Her grandchildren find them quite hard to believe! Margaret left HSL in 1944. She writes:

“AS I RECALL, the Autumn term of 1939 was late starting because of the outbreak of war. I was allocated to Old House which was on the Green in Llandaff and opposite Llandaff Cathedral.

“We had a Junior and Senior common room and my dormitory was a room with several beds in it. When it was almost bed-time (about 8.30-ish) we went downstairs to the basement where we had a drink and, if our parents had provided it, some fresh fruit. We enjoyed chatting to the maids by a warming, open coal-fired range. Then Miss Fenrie (?), the housemistress, would check each dormitory to see that we were all right before doing her share of fire watching in the area.

“I spent only a few terms at Old House because, during the Christmas school holiday in 1941, a land mine was dropped on Llandaff Cathedral and Old House was damaged. Alternative accommodation had to be found

for us; I was placed in The Rise for a while, then for the rest of my time at Howell’s School, I lived in a house called Kendall.

“Bedtime remained at 9.00pm the whole time I was at school and we were expected to be in bed at that time. Tell that to the young of today! We had no television, of course, and access to a radio only occasionally.

“When D Day dawned there information was posted in the Stone Hall at intervals during the day.

“Of course the much-remembered Miss Disney played a part in my school life – fortunately, I enjoyed games so I guess I fared reasonably well, and, for good or ill, I hold her responsible for my tenacity!”

Trains of thought

READING MARGARET'S ACCOUNT of her first days in Howell's triggered off two thoughts in the Editor's mind. The first is that The Rise, where Margaret was billeted for a while is no longer there. Subsequently a house of accommodation for unruly youths, it has now been demolished and new housing will occupy the site.

The second thing that came to mind was an article in a newspaper in October 2018. To quote:

"A West Midlands school is facing criticism over a new policy reportedly insisting on silence between classes. ...[The school] said in a letter to parents that pupils who break the 'silent corridor' rule will be given a 20-minute detention. ...[The school] said the policy would 'ensure students arrive calmly and ready to learn'. Students would be able to relax and socialise during break and lunch times."

The article goes on:

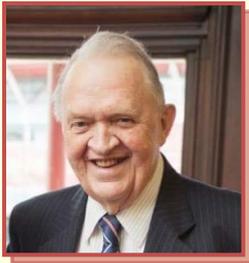
"... the move has left some people puzzled, with one Twitter user saying, 'Baffled here. Beyond draconian and, to be frank, probably unworkable.' "

Older Hywelians will, no doubt, be both amused and baffled themselves by the reaction.



Neville Sims, MBE FCA (1933-2018)

Neville Sims was Chairman of the Governing Body of HSL from 1981 to 2006. While we would not normally record the passing of a non-Hywelian, Neville's enormous contribution to HSL cannot go unmarked. Here, Elisabeth Elias (Chair, GDST, 2000-2007) and Jane Fitz (Head/Principal 1991-2007) pay tribute to the man and his contribution.



From Mrs Elisabeth Elias, Chairman of Council of the GDST, 2000-2007

I HAD THE BENEFIT of joining the Governing Body at Howell's shortly after Neville became Chairman and not very long after the School had joined the Trust. It was with his encouragement and mentoring that I gained experience of the GDST, which led to my being appointed a Trustee and member of Council.

I have therefore first-hand knowledge of the very great contribution Neville made in furthering the relationship of the School with the Trust, while also maintaining the valuable and historic links with the Drapers' Company. Neville was consistently wise and calm, and through his long experience of

governance at Howell's became respected throughout the Trust.

Howell's School and the GDST owe him a great debt of gratitude for his loyalty and commitment to both.

From Mrs Jane Fitz, Headmistress/Principal, 1991- 2007

Neville had a very distinguished career as a chartered accountant and held significant appointments in the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Post Watch Wales. Neville's family association with Howell's began with his marriage to Jennifer (née Warwick), a Hywelian, and his daughters, Heather and Caroline, are both former students. He was invited to be a member of the Governing Body in the late 1970s by the then Chairman, Mr Arthur Phillips; Neville succeeded him as Chairman in 1981.

There were many important changes to the school in those 25 years under his Chairmanship. There were several major building programmes, including the Music School, the Sports Hall, new laboratories, a Craft Design and Technology suite, the extensions to the

Junior School and its new building, Ty Hapus. The Junior School was re-established, the Nursery was opened, boarding was closed and the boarding houses transformed into the Sixth Form Centre. The withdrawal of the Assisted Places Scheme necessitated the consequent fundraising for, and development of, the Bursary Scheme. From 2003, in full consultation with the Trust, he and I planned the introduction of boys into a mixed Sixth Form, the first cohort joining in September 2006. Most of these changes would not have been possible without the full support of the Trust and Neville played a crucial role in ensuring a close and effective working relationship with the Trust, the two Headmistresses, and the members of the Governing Body, in implementing those changes.

Neville was such a supportive, encouraging, forward thinking, interested and warm hearted Chairman; I particularly valued his knowledge of the school and its traditions. His skill as a Chairman was widely acknowledged and he always prepared meticulously and thoughtfully for meetings. His financial expertise was a great asset, as was his willingness to listen to new ideas, to

proffer constructive help and advice and to support the implementations even when they were somewhat challenging. His wise counsel and genuine concern were also very welcome in the difficult times we shared.

It was appropriate that Neville officially opened the new Junior School buildings in 2006. He took a keen interest in the re-establishment of our Junior School, which started with four classes in the 1980s. In the 1990s, it gradually expanded and with the new buildings there were sufficient spaces and additional facilities for fourteen classes and the Nursery. He was always a superb ambassador for the school and keen to promote it wherever possible. We enjoyed the support and interest of the whole family at numerous concerts and plays, and that continued after his retirement from the Governing Body.

The school community, including former Governors, former members of staff and representatives from the Hywelians and the Parents' Association, came together to mark his retirement in 2006. He was held in the highest esteem and his legacy is in the character and buildings of the school today.

Obituaries and *In Memoriam*

While we record with sadness the passing of former pupils, we also remember lives well-lived and achievements gained.

Jean Anne Chapman (née Yendoll, HSL 1941-48)

Jean's daughter Helen Norris (née Chapman) was at School from 1969-76. Helen writes:

"My mum passed away at Huntercombe Hall Nursing Home near Henley-on-Thames on 23 August 2018, following five years of increasing dementia and immobility.

"Mum adored school. She started at the same time as Miss Lewis who was also headmistress throughout my own time at school. Her younger sister Julia Hughes was also at HSL, as was their aunt (my great-aunt), Dorothy Yendoll. Mum always boasted about attaining 2% in a Scripture examination – for writing her name correctly at the top of the paper! She loved boarding and I understand that most of her time was focused on finding as many international penpals as possible!

On leaving school she went to Gloucestershire Training College of Domestic Science. She tried life as a teacher, and also worked in Barclays Bank where her father was a bank manager, but was highly relieved to meet my father, Eric, whom she married in 1956. They settled in Dinas Powis to raise a family. She tried going back to teaching when I started at HSL but never enjoyed working outside the home. In 1974, they moved to Caversham,

Reading, and Mum set up the Thames Valley and Chilterns Branch of the Hywelian Guild; she would travel up to London for many of the Hywelian meetings there. She was also very involved in church life, having embraced Anglo-Catholicism while still at school. Her skills included creating beautiful vestments for the church and mass catering for fund raising events. She maintained many of her early friendships and travelled as often as she could manage.

My brother moved to the USA, so she had frequent excuses for visiting her four grandsons over there. I spent three years in Hong Kong (which she found less attractive for visits!) but ended up living near Reading, so she was then able to have a close relationship with my two daughters and son.

It was sad to see her in failing health, but her appetite and smile remained until the end. She died exactly 13 years to the day after my father."

Jill Angela James (née Birch, HSL 1943-1952)

Vanessa Cunningham was a good friend of Jill's; these are her affectionate memories:

"Jill James, who died on 22 July 2018 at the age of eighty-three, lived all her life in Llandaff, at walking distance from

Howell's. Her period as a day girl was overshadowed by sadness: her father died when she was eight, and Jill learned early to share her mother's burdens. In the school lunch hour she had to rush to the home of two elderly relatives to give them lunch.

"A highlight of her girlhood was broadcasting on the BBC's 'Children's Hour' as a member of the Wales team in a general knowledge competition entitled 'Regional Round'. From Howell's she acquired (in her husband's words) 'a useful bunch of what we now call GCSEs, a grounding in and love of botany, an easy way with words and a qualification as a life-saver.' Jill was ambitious to go on to university, but at that time had to settle for office work. She passed the Local Government Examination Board's intermediate examination in Administration in 1956.

Jill was an enthusiastic Girl Guide, rising through the ranks to become a Queen's Guide and captain of the Llandaff Company. She was one of the UK's representatives at a Ranger Guide conference in Milan. When the Cathedral bells were restored after the second World War, she learned to ring, and became secretary of the Guild of ringers. "In 1958 she married the Tower Captain, Nevil James. They had two sons, David (1960) and Nick (1963). Jill had cause to be grateful to Howell's when her husband, suffering from crippling back pain, was recommended to take up swimming. Jill appealed to Miss Lewis, who graciously allowed the family to use the school pool in the evenings. Very soon the back pain had disappeared, and

both boys had learned to swim.

"The Open University eventually offered a path to the higher education that Jill craved. She revelled in the wide curriculum available to Humanities students and in 1978 she graduated BA with an upper second. In 1981 she achieved a Diploma in Local History from what is now Cardiff University, and used her research skills to produce a series of papers on aspects of Llandaff's history. She was also joint author of several other publications on similar themes, and was often to be seen leading groups on walking tours of the city village. For some twelve years following his retirement, Nevil James served as Honorary Archivist of Llandaff Cathedral; Jill worked alongside him with dedication and enthusiasm. Together they delivered the annual lecture of the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral in 1988; their subject was 'History in the Graveyard'.

"For many years, Jill was involved in helping immigrant families in the Riverside area of Cardiff. She would visit housebound Muslim women to help them to improve their English and understand their new environment, and she was a weekly WVS volunteer in Rookwood Hospital for more than twenty years. Her domestic skills were of a high order: as a generous hostess and a very fine cook, she was noted in particular for the adventurous combinations of ingredients that went into her soups.

"Jill's warmth and kindness, and her beautiful smile, characterised her to the end of her life, and were recognised and remarked upon even by the nurses who

cared for her in Llandough Hospital in her final illness.”

Mair Lloyd Sanders (née Edwards, HSL 1942-1949) passed away at the age of 85 on the 26th November 2017 after a short battle with cancer.



Her son Nick sent this appreciation of her life:

“Mair is survived by her two younger sisters, Wendy and Diana, who also went to HSL. Mair had very fond memories of her time at HSL and enjoyed going to the school reunions. She made lifelong friends at Howell’s and loved sport, particularly lacrosse. On leaving Howell’s she qualified as a pharmacist and continued playing lacrosse whilst at Cardiff University. Mair was chosen as first reserve for the Welsh Women’s Lacrosse Team while a student at the University. She married Bruce, a fellow Pharmacy graduate, and had two sons. Mair and Bruce were both Community Pharmacists, and owned a pharmacy in North Cardiff, the area where they lived

for most of their 63 years of marriage.”

Moira Ward (née Herbert) died on 20 May 2016

Joyce Shields recalls:

“Moira had a shop in Llandaff High Street for many years that is now Jasper’s, I think. It sold all sorts of knick-knacks. She left school in 1952 when she was 17, I believe.”

Kerry-Jane Elsdon (1960-2018)

Val Palmer, a close friend of Kerry-Jane, records some happy memories:

“The summer of 2018 brought sad news - the sudden passing of one of my oldest friends, Kerry-Jane Elsdon, or ‘Kez’ as she was known to all of us. Kez was an extraordinarily engaging character with a razor-sharp wit and wry sense of humour. I first encountered Kez when we ended up in the same class in 1973. She was a boarder while I was a ‘day-bug’, but we rapidly bonded over our shared obsession for music, and spent the next four years indulging it to the full, while avoiding enforced lacrosse practice. We considered ourselves part of a Hywelian musical elite - our allegiances were to Bowie and Roxy Music whilst many of our contemporaries fawned over the Bay City Rollers. Kez would be the first to admit that she was no great scholar - she famously received 4% in her maths mock O-Level, and was unable to suppress her mirth as the grade was read out to the class. She was, however, a gifted writer

and voracious reader. Her natural habitats were the inspired English Literature lessons of Mrs Hamilton-Jones, and singing in the school choir, led by Gaynor Howard.

“After I left Howell’s in 1977, we gradually lost touch, until the dawn of digital communications re-united us in the late 90s. It was no surprise to discover that Kez was a freelance writer and music journalist. A close group of friends from that time - Sally Dowd (née Jones), Bridget Box (née Matt), Jenny James (née Pye), Kez and myself kept in regular contact.

“In 2016 we met up at a Howell’s re-union and it was remarkable to observe that none of us - including Kez - had really changed since we were classmates.

Those who knew Kez were aware that she did not have an easy passage through school, nor life in general. However, she never complained and used her writing to rail against any injustice that she saw inflicted upon others. The family moved to Johannesburg where Kez acquired several degrees (including a Master’s) before embarking on a writing career. After 18 years living and working in Spain, Kez returned to her beloved Wales and home town of Pembroke, with her mother Val.

“When Kez’s untimely death at 57 (from sepsis) was announced in late June 2018, the outpouring of affection and admiration from around the globe would have left her dumbfounded. She

really had no idea how respected she was for her writing and for her warm, generous spirit. I am proud and thankful to have been her close friend - she made those often torturous teenage years so much more bearable. At her very touching farewell in Pembroke, our group of life-long pals - ‘Howlers’ as we refer to ourselves - escorted Kez out of the church to a rousing chorus of David Bowie’s ‘All the Young Dudes’. I know she would have approved.”

Val notes that an example of Kez’s typically humorous prose can be found on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/680626636/posts/10155222463766637/>

[Joyce Shields notes that, following the announcement of Kerry-Jane’s death, over £3000 was collected in her memory—Ed]

Reminders

IF YOU WOULD LIKE a printed version of next year's Magazine by post, please remember to send Joyce Shields an A5-sized envelope (C5) carrying a LARGE stamp of the correct postage, by the end of September 2019. Joyce's address can be obtained from Hannah Roberts, Hywelian Liaison at School.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY a Facebook user, you might like to consider joining the Hywelian Guild Facebook page. It's a lovely way to keep in touch (or even get in touch!) with school friends and other Hywelians.

Joyce Shields, our super-efficient and knowledgeable Membership Secretary would be delighted to give you further details of how to join.

The page is only open to Hywelians and is not publicly available.

Contact: *hywelians@how.gdst.net*

The Bronwen Jacques Trust

MRS BRONWEN JACQUES WAS one of the earliest Secretaries of the Hywelian Guild. When she died in 1975, she left her house near Gloucester to the Governors for the benefit of former pupils and ex-members of staff. The Governors decided to sell the house and, with the proceeds, created a Trust fund.

Half the money was given to the Cartref Homes in Cardiff with the proviso that two former pupils or ex-members of staff would have priority entry to one of the homes each year. The remaining money was invested and the resulting income is administered by a sub-group of the Hywelian Guild Committee, chaired by Mrs Davis.

The income is available to help any former pupil or ex-member of staff who may be in financial difficulty, whether or not a member of the Guild. The names of those assisted remain confidential within the sub-Committee.

Hywelians wishing to apply should address their letter to Mrs Sally Davis.



Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YD